



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by difficulty in recognizing words accurately and/or fluently, spelling, and decoding words and speech sounds. Dyslexia may also result in reading comprehension difficulties that reduce the reading experience and impede the expansion of vocabulary and general information; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately one in every five children in the U.S. experiences difficulty while reading and 10-20 in every 100 struggle with dyslexia; and
- WHEREAS: Research shows that a child who completes second grade without learning to read has only a one in four chance of reading at grade level by the end of elementary school. Further, 74 percent of children who experience literacy difficulties in the third grade continue to experience such difficulties into the ninth grade and throughout adulthood. However, if a child is introduced to reading and provided critical learning skills in kindergarten or first grade, he or she has a 90-95 percent chance of becoming a fluent reader; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the prevalence of learning disabilities, many in the general public and the academic community are unaware of how to access and implement treatment options for dyslexia. Organizations in Georgia such as the International Dyslexia Association are committed to providing information on treatment options and additional resources to improve the lives of those affected by dyslexia; and
- WHEREAS: If recognized early, treatment for dyslexia may produce greater results. Although children in Pre-K may display symptoms of dyslexia, many students with the disability are not diagnosed until much later when treatment options are fewer and they have fallen behind their peers academically; and
- WHEREAS: Dyslexia Awareness Month provides an opportunity for children and families whose lives have been affected by dyslexia to honor the dedicated education and health care professionals who are working to address the needs of those with the disability. During Dyslexia Awareness Month, citizens are encouraged to share information regarding dyslexia with the general public, including parents, teachers, and other community members to help those affected by dyslexia reach their fullest potential; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF